

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer-based method comprising the steps of:
- 2 (a) generating first examination results from first version
- 3 information which indicates whether a first workspace element
- 4 stored at a first store within a firewall has been modified;
- 5 (b) generating second examination results from second version
- 6 information which indicates whether an independently-modifiable
- 7 copy of the first workspace element has been modified, the copy
- 8 being stored at a second store outside the firewall;
- 9 (c) initiating steps (a) and (b) from within the firewall when
- 10 predetermined criteria have been satisfied;
- 11 (d) generating a preferred version from the first workspace
- 12 element and from the copy based on the first and second
- 13 examination results; and
- 14 (e) storing the preferred version at the first store and at the
- 15 second store.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the second store is on a global
- 2 server outside the firewall and which is protected by a global
- 3 firewall.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first version information  
2 includes the date and time the first workspace element was last  
3 modified and the second version information includes the date and  
4 time the copy was last modified.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein generating the first  
2 examination results includes the step of comparing the first version  
3 information against a date and time of last synchronization.

1 5. The method of claim 3 wherein generating the second  
2 examination results includes the step of comparing the second  
3 version information against a date and time of last synchronization.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising, before generating  
2 the first examination results, the step of updating the first version  
3 information whenever the first workspace element is modified.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising, before generating  
2 the second examination results, the step of updating the second  
3 version information whenever the copy is modified.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein if only one of the first  
2 workspace element and the copy has been modified, then the step of  
3 generating includes selecting the one as the preferred version.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of locating  
2 the first workspace element, the first version information, the copy  
3 and the second version information.

1 10. A system comprising:

2 a general synchronization module for operating within a first  
3 firewall and for examining first version information to determine  
4 whether a first workspace element has been modified;

5 a synchronization agent for operating outside the first firewall  
6 and for forwarding to the general synchronization module second  
7 version information which indicates whether an independently-  
8 modifiable copy of the first workspace element has been modified;

9 a synchronization-start module for operating within the first  
10 firewall and for initiating the general synchronization module and  
11 the synchronization agent when predetermined criteria have been  
12 satisfied;

13 means for generating a preferred version from the first  
14 workspace element and from the copy by comparing the first version  
15 information and the second version information; and  
16 means for storing the preferred version at the first store and at  
17 the second store.

1 11. The system of claim 10 further comprising a communications  
2 module for communicating through the first firewall.

1 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the synchronization agent and  
2 the second store are on a global server which is protected by a global  
3 firewall.

1 13. The system of claim 12 further comprising a communications  
2 module for communicating through the first firewall and through the  
3 global firewall.

1 14. The system of claim 10 wherein the first version information  
2 includes the date and time the first workspace element was last  
3 modified and the second version information includes the date and  
4 time the copy was last modified.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the general synchronization  
2 module compares the first version information against a date and  
3 time of last synchronization.

1 16. The system of claim 14 wherein the synchronization agent  
2 compares the second version information against the date and time  
3 of last synchronization.

1 17. The system of claim 10 further comprising means for updating  
2 the first version information whenever the first workspace element  
3 is modified.

1 18. The system of claim 10 further comprising means for updating  
2 the second version information whenever the copy is modified.

1 19. The system of claim 10 wherein if only one of the first  
2 workspace element and the copy has been modified, then the means  
3 for generating selects the one as the preferred version.

1 20. The system of claim 10 further comprising a locator module for  
2 locating the first store, the first workspace element, the first version  
3 information, the second store, the copy and the second version  
4 information.

1 21. A system comprising:

2 first means for generating first examination results from first  
3 version information which indicates whether a first workspace  
4 element stored at a first store within a firewall has been modified;

5 second means for generating second examination results from  
6 second version information which indicates whether an  
7 independently-modifiable copy of the first workspace element has  
8 been modified, the copy being stored at a second store outside the  
9 firewall;

10 means for initiating the first and second means from within the  
11 firewall when predetermined criteria have been satisfied;

12 means for generating a preferred version from the first  
13 workspace element and from the copy based on the first and second  
14 examination results; and

15 means for storing the preferred version at the first store and at  
16 the second store.

1 22. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for  
2 causing a computer to perform the steps of:

3 (a) generating first examination results from first version  
4 information which indicates whether a first workspace element  
5 stored at a first store within a firewall has been modified;

6 (b) generating second examination results from second version  
7 information which indicates whether an independently-modifiable  
8 copy of the first workspace element has been modified, the copy  
9 being stored at a second store outside the firewall;

10 (c) initiating steps (a) and (b) from within the firewall when  
11 predetermined criteria have been satisfied;

12 (d) generating a preferred version from the first workspace  
13 element and from the copy based on the first and second  
14 examination results; and

15 (e) storing the preferred version at the first store and at the  
16 second store.

- 1 23. A computer-based method comprising the steps of:
- 2 (a) generating first examination results from first version
- 3 information which indicates whether a first workspace element
- 4 stored at a first store within a firewall has been modified;
- 5 (b) generating second examination results from second version
- 6 information which indicates whether an independently-modifiable
- 7 copy of the first workspace element has been modified, the copy
- 8 being stored at a second store outside the firewall;
- 9 (c) initiating steps (a) and (b) from within the firewall when
- 10 predetermined criteria have been satisfied;
- 11 (d) determining based on the first and second examination results
- 12 that both the first workspace element and the copy have been
- 13 modified; and
- 14 (e) storing both the first workspace element and the copy at the
- 15 first store and at the second store.



1 24. A system comprising:

2 first means for generating first examination results from first  
3 version information which indicates whether a first workspace  
4 element stored at a first store within a firewall has been modified;

5 second means for generating second examination results from  
6 second version information which indicates whether an  
7 independently-modifiable copy of the first workspace element has  
8 been modified, the copy being stored at a second store outside the  
9 firewall;

10 means for initiating the first and second means from within the  
11 firewall when predetermined criteria have been satisfied;

12 means for determining based on the first and second  
13 examination results that both the first workspace element and the  
14 copy have been modified; and

15 means for storing both the first file and the copy at the first  
16 store and at the second store.

1 25. A system comprising:  
2 a global server for operating outside a firewall and including  
3 memory for storing first workspace data and  
4 corresponding first version information; and  
5 a synchronization agent for managing the first workspace  
6 data and the corresponding first version information and for  
7 communicating with remote clients; and  
8 a remote client for operating within the firewall and including  
9 memory for storing second workspace data and  
10 corresponding second version information;  
11 means for cooperating with the synchronization agent to  
12 synchronize the first workspace data with the second  
13 workspace data by examining the first version information and  
14 the second version information; and  
15 a synchronization-start module for initiating workspace  
16 data synchronization between the global server and the remote  
17 client.